

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A cross-contamination prevention system comprising:

a maintenance computer collecting and storing reagent cross-contamination information;

[[a]]an automatic analyzer connected to said maintenance computer through a communication line, said automatic analyzer including~~[[:]]~~ a memory storing reagent cross-contamination information transmitted from said maintenance computer, ~~and a control section;~~ and an analyzer operating unit that receives instruction for changing an operation sequence of said automatic analyzer to prevent the occurrence of the cross-contamination on the basis of said reagent cross-contamination information stored in said memory~~[[:]]~~, and carries out the operation sequence to prevent the occurrence of the cross-contamination in accordance with the received instruction.

2. (Currently Amended) A cross-contamination prevention system according to ~~Claim~~claim 1, wherein said maintenance computer is configured to carry out a validation test based on the collected cross-contamination information to validate

whether the information is true or false, and to send only the information, which has been validated as being true, to a plurality of other automatic analyzers each connected to said maintenance computer through a communication line.

3. (Previously Presented) A cross-contamination prevention system according to claim 2, wherein said maintenance computer is configured to collect the cross-contamination information and to carry out a validation test on the collected information, and to manage the information, which has been collected and subjected to the validation test, and to send the information to said plurality of other automatic analyzers.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) A cross-contamination prevention system according to claim 1, wherein the cross contamination information contains at least one of information for identifying an offensive reagent, information for identifying a defensive reagent, information regarding a level of influence of the cross-contamination, information regarding a contamination place, information regarding a detergent type, and information regarding a detergent volume.

6. (Currently Amended) A cross-contamination prevention system according to ~~Claim~~claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of other automatic analyzers is configured to automatically take in the cross-contamination information and change an operation sequence of said analyzer as required.

7. (Previously Presented) A cross-contamination prevention system according to claim 6, wherein each of said other automatic analyzers is configured to display the cross-contamination information having been automatically taken in, to ask an operator of said analyzer whether or not the operation sequence of said analyzer is to be changed, to register a result of confirmation made by the operator, and to change the operation sequence of said analyzer in accordance with the registration result.

8. (Previously Presented) A cross-contamination prevention system according to claim 6, wherein each of said other automatic analyzers is configured to validate its own ability of suppressing cross-contamination, and to determine whether or not the operation sequence of each of said other analyzers is to be changed, based on a combination of the validated ability of suppressing cross-contamination and the cross-contamination information having been automatically taken in.

9. (Currently Amended) A cross-contamination prevention system according to ~~Claim~~claim 1, further including a processing system for enabling said maintenance computer to receive predetermined charges in exchange for offering said cross-contamination information.

10-13. (Canceled)

14. (New) A cross-contamination prevention method comprising:  
  
receiving, by an automatic analyzer, reagent cross-contamination information from a maintenance computer;  
  
storing the reagent cross-contamination information in a memory;  
  
receiving instruction for changing an operation sequence of said automatic analyzer to prevent the occurrence of the cross-contamination on the basis of said reagent cross-contamination information stored in said memory; and  
  
carrying out the operation sequence to prevent the occurrence of the cross-contamination in accordance with the received instruction.

15. (New) A cross-contamination prevention method according to claim 14, further comprising carrying out a validation test based on the cross-contamination information collected and stored in the maintenance computer to validate whether

the information is true or false; and sending only the information, which has been validated as being true, to a plurality of other automatic analyzers each connected to said maintenance computer through a communication line.

16. (New) A cross-contamination prevention method according to claim 14, wherein the cross contamination information contains at least one of information for identifying an offensive reagent, information for identifying a defensive reagent, information regarding a level of influence of the cross-contamination, information regarding a contamination place, information regarding a detergent type, and information regarding a detergent volume.

17. (New) A cross-contamination prevention method according to claim 14, further comprising, for each of said plurality of other automatic analyzers, automatically taking in the cross-contamination information and changing an operation sequence of said analyzer as required.

18. (New) A cross-contamination prevention method according to claim 17, further comprising, for each of said other automatic analyzers, displaying the cross-contamination information having been automatically taken in, asking an operator of said analyzer whether or not the operation sequence of said analyzer is to be changed, registering a result of confirmation made by the operator, and changing

the operation sequence of said analyzer in accordance with the registration result.

19. (New) A cross-contamination prevention method according to claim 17, further comprising, for each of said other automatic analyzers, validating its own ability of suppressing cross-contamination, and determining whether or not the operation sequence of each of said other analyzers is to be changed, based on a combination of the validated ability of suppressing cross-contamination and the cross-contamination information having been automatically taken in.

20. (New) A cross-contamination prevention method according to claim 14, further comprising enabling said maintenance computer to receive predetermined charges in exchange for offering said cross-contamination information.

21. (New) A cross-contamination prevention method according to claim 14, further comprising reading a reagent barcode label of each of a plurality of reagent bottles for identification of the reagents by the automatic analyzer, registering the reagents, and confirming washing ability of the automatic analyzer by testing.

22. (New) A cross-contamination prevention method according to claim 21, further comprising:

comparing a reagent manufacturer name and test information contained in the reagent barcode label with information of combinations causing cross-contamination stored as reagent cross-contamination information in the memory to check for presence or absence of a combination causing cross-contamination;

if there is presence of a combination causing cross-contamination, issuing an alarm indicating the presence, evaluating the washing ability of the automatic analyzer and displaying the combination causing cross-contamination for which washing is recommended, and prompting an operator to select whether to carry out registration of cross-contamination prevention or not; and

if the operator selects to carryout registration of cross-contamination prevention, registering cross-contamination prevention information.

23. (New) A cross-contamination prevention method comprising:  
receiving, by an automatic analyzer, reagent cross-contamination information from a maintenance computer;

storing the reagent cross-contamination information in a memory; and

changing an operation sequence of the automatic analyzer to prevent the occurrence of the cross-contamination on the basis of the reagent cross-contamination information stored in the memory.

24. (New) A cross-contamination prevention method according to claim 23, further comprising reading a reagent barcode label of each of a plurality of reagent bottles for identification of the reagents by the automatic analyzer, registering the reagents, and confirming washing ability of the automatic analyzer by testing.

25. (New) A cross-contamination prevention method according to claim 24, further comprising:

comparing a reagent manufacturer name and test information contained in the reagent barcode label with information of combinations causing cross-contamination stored as reagent cross-contamination information in the memory to check presence or absence of a combination causing cross-contamination;

if there is presence of a combination causing cross-contamination, issuing an alarm indicating the presence, evaluating the washing ability of the automatic analyzer and displaying the combination causing cross-contamination for which washing is recommended, and prompting an operator



to select whether to carry out registration of cross-contamination prevention or not; and

if the operator selects to carryout registration of cross-contamination prevention, registering cross-contamination prevention information.